

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL ASWAN IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 056432

TOSEC 453

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATE, INFO ATEHSN, NICOSIA, ADANA,
ISTANBUL, IZMIR, EUCOM, MARCH 13, FROM ANKARA RPTD TO YOU:

QUOTE UNCLAS ANKARA 2051

DEPT PLS PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJECT: IRMAK RELIEVED OF RESPONSIBILITY TO FORM GOVERNMENT

REF ANKARA 2017

1. PRIMIN-DESIGNATE SADI IRMAK, AFTER CONFERRING WITH
PRESIDENT KORUTURK IN THE MORNING OF MARCH 13, ANNOUNCED
THAT HE HAD ASKED TO BE RELIEVED OF THE DUTY TO FORM A GOVERNMENT
AND THAT THE PRESIDENT HAD AGREED TO HIS REQUEST. IRMAK
STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD REMAIN IN A "CARETAKER"
CAPACITY UNTIL A NEW GOVERNMENT WAS FORMED.

2. IRMAK SAID THAT HE HAD "MADE EFFORTS TO FORM A NATIONAL
COALITION AIMED AT PREVENTING POLARIZATION IN THE COUNTRY...

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(BUT) IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN A RESULT FROM THESE CONTACTS...
THEN I MADE CONTACTS FOR THE FORMATION OF A GOVERNMENT WHICH

WOULD AT LEAST HAVE A WIDE BASIS AND WOULD BE BASED ON AND CAPABLE OF WORKING WITH THE PARLIAMENT. BUT IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO OVERCOME THE EXISTING DIFFICULTIES."

3. RESPONDING TO JOURNALISTS' QUESTIONS, IRMAK SAID HE "DID NOT KNOW AT THE MOMENT" IF THE PRESIDENT WOULD GIVE THE DUTY OF FORMING A GOVERNMENT TO THE NATIONALIST FRONT (CENTER-RIGHT COALITION HEADED BY SULEYMAN DEMIREL). CONCERNING THE PROSPECT OF THE PRESIDENT'S ACCEPTING A MINORITY GOVERNMENT WITH RPP SUPPORT (REFTEL), IRMAK ANSWERED "SUCH A PROBLEM DID NOT COME UP. IT MAY HAVE BEEN ONE POSSIBILITY, BUT UNDER EXISTING CONDITIONS, SUCCESS OF SUCH A COALITION WAS VERY DOUBTFUL. IN ORDER NOT TO LOSE MORE TIME I FOUND BENEFIT IN GIVEING BACK THE DUTY ENTRUSTED TO ME." MACOMBER UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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